

# GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA NEWSLETTER

**Providing Up To Date Information and News Affecting the  
Government Finance Officer Profession in South Carolina**



## 2006 Fall Conference ~ "Solving the Puzzle of Government Finance"

### Carol Martin – 2006 Fall Conference Chair



Our 2006 Fall Conference at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center was a huge success!

The conference theme, "Solving the Puzzle of Government Finance" was developed by the Fall Conference Committee. First of all, I would like to thank my Fall Conference Committee. They worked tirelessly for me and the organization. They are the ones who made this a great conference. There have been numerous compliments about various speaker presentations. From the evaluations, we had an average of 3.3 and above, out of a possible 4. I thank all of our attendees who filled out the forms. I also received lots of praise from our vendors and speakers.

Tim did tell me that I needed to learn how to pronounce German. Ha.

The Convention Center and Sheraton Hotel once again provided us with delicious food and unprecedented service. We will be back with them next year. The contract is in place through 2008. Our sponsors and vendors are the ones who made this conference such a great success. We thank them for their generosity and support. It could not happen without them.

We had an outstanding turnout for Sunday's sessions, followed by a fantastic buffet dinner with entertainment provided by Mike Lockaby of East Coast Entertainment. He was so good last year, it was unanimous to have him back again this year. As before, he did a great job!!

As always, special thanks to Greg and Lynne Lee. They are the ones who have to

pack up a u-haul with all of the stuff they have to bring down to make this conference a success.

It has been wonderful working with such fine people. Thank all of you for giving me the honor to be your President in the coming year.

### 2006 Fall Conference Committee

Pat Blackwell – USC

Parker Boulware – LLR

Jennifer Broughton –  
B&C Board – SCEIS

Missy Coker –  
Williamsburg Technical College

Frances Derrick – LLR

Ann Epting – Adjutant  
General's Office

Steve Gibson – City of  
Rock Hill

Kristi Hornsby – B&C  
Board – SCEIS

Tim O'Dell –  
Florence-Darlington  
Technical College

Cassandra Phibbs – Probation, Parole and Pardon

Gerry Sanders – Richland County

Sherry Martin – SC Department of Commerce

Donna Sullivan – Florence School District

Herb Walker – SC Department of Consumer Affairs

**SPECIAL THANKS TO  
THE FALL CONFERENCE  
COMMITTEE!  
HUGS TO  
ALL!!!!!!**



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## From Our President ~ Tim O'Dell, CPA

### *Holiday Greetings and Salutations,*

According to the calendar, it appears that we are rapidly approaching the dawn of a new year. 2006 will be but a distant memory in a matter of weeks. It was a great year for our organization with a broad array of continuing education programs and timely issues mingled with delicious luncheon meetings. We had drop-dead gorgeous beautiful southern weather and hospitality for our Spring and Fall Conferences, which always seem to provide a great mix of professional education topics. This year's Board of Directors were a lively group with many great ideas intended to strengthen and further the mission of our association. There were also some really lousy ideas, but for the most part they ignored my recommendations...as brilliant as they were. When the Fall Conference theme is a "toga party", you can thank me. This year's Board has made great strides and continues to work on such issues as policy and procedure clarifications with our bylaws and our certification guidelines, enhanced membership marketing, de-

veloping job descriptions for our directors and officers, negotiations with other states for certification reciprocity, and more flexibility with elections and the addition of absentee balloting. These and other efforts by this year's Board will continue to add value and credibility to our association.

This will likely be my last article as President of GFOASC. I have passed the torch to my very capable successor, Carol Martin. She will do a fine job. If you don't believe it and you missed the Fall Conference, just ask the folks at Deutsch Bank. It has been an action-packed, enlightening, and satisfying year. I am indeed thankful that I have been blessed with a wonderful opportunity to work alongside some hard-working and delightful folks. My heartfelt thanks go out to the 2006 Board and to Greg and Lynne Lee. I will leave you with this thought as we embark upon a very special time of the year. "There are two

ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle"- Albert Einstein.

**2006 Board of Directors** - Thanks for the memories....and God Bless you everyone!

Carol Martin,  
President-Elect

Terry Booth, Treasurer

Cassandra Phibbs,  
Secretary

Sherry Martin, Director

Doug Cooper, Director

Frances Derrick, Director

Juan Sims, Director

Scott Ludlam,  
State Representative

Renee Moore,  
Immediate Past President

Merry Christmas and  
Happy Holidays to you all!

*Tim O'Dell, El-Presidente*



## 2007 Government Finance Officers Association of South Carolina Board of Directors

**Carol Martin—President**  
**Viola Faust—President-Elect**  
**Terry Booth, CPA, CGFO—Treasurer**  
**Michael Thom, CGFO—Secretary**  
**Frances Derrick, CGFO—Director**  
**Juan Sims—Director**  
**Stacey Hamm, CGFO—Director**  
**Jennifer Broughton—Director**  
**Marcia Medway, M.A.—State Rep.**  
**Tim O'Dell, CPA—Past-President**

Further information, as well as email addresses on the 2007 Board can be found on our Web site at [www.gfoasc.com](http://www.gfoasc.com) under the "About GFOASC" Link.



## Membership Committee Update

**Terry Booth, CPA, CGFO ~ Membership Committee Chair**

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The Membership Committee has worked hard this year to increase membership and to ensure that all dues were paid. Below is a summary of the actual membership for 2006:

Regular individual Members 579

Retired and honorary members 13

Associate members 18

Individual agency & associate sustaining members 120

Total individuals 730

Agency 2

Associate sustaining 2

Individual memberships categorized by type of agency are:

Associate	25
City	71
College & University	110
County	110
Retired	12
School Districts	31
Special Districts	33
State	338
<b>Total</b>	<b>730</b>

Our regular individual members increased from an estimated 436 in 2005 to 579 in 2006, which is an increase of 143 members or 33%!! The membership committee will continue the

effort to increase membership over the next year. If you have any suggestions, or would like to be a part of this, please email me at [gfoasc@yahoo.com](mailto:gfoasc@yahoo.com).

The membership renewals were sent out in December. You should have received an email notifying you that they have been sent out, and then the forms were mailed to the address we have on file for you. Please email me or update Memberclicks if you need to make any changes to your contact information. Thank you for your support over the past year.



"Our regular individual members increased from an estimated 436 in 2005 to 579 in 2006"

Membership Renewals have been mailed! Please let us know if you did not receive yours.

## Treasurer's Report

**Terry Booth, CPA, CGFO ~ GFOASC Treasurer**

The Association's finances are in better shape this year, and will be even better next year. As of November 30, 2006, we had \$76,301 in the bank (accounts payable of \$67,279), and a small overall net loss of \$3,129. The fall confer-

ence had a net income of \$4,132. We expect to be "back in the black" (and stay that way) next year.

The treasurer reports are posted to the website under the Treasurer Report link each month. Please let me know if

you have any questions or suggestions. You can email me at [gfoasc@yahoo.com](mailto:gfoasc@yahoo.com).



## Technology Committee Update

The technology committee has been very busy updating the GFOASC Web site. Please visit the site at [www.gfoasc.com](http://www.gfoasc.com) and let us know what you think. We believe it is streamlined and much easier to use.

While doing the update we also did a reset of the Memberclicks passwords on the member login section of the Web site. If

you are unable to log in, please click on the "forgot your password" link and enter your email address. You should be emailed your new information. If you experience any problems with the site, please contact Lynne Lee to assist you at [lslee@sc.rr.com](mailto:lslee@sc.rr.com).

We are working on many new additions to the site for the new year such as online voting as well as

polls and other ways to network with other government finance professionals.

We would love to hear your suggestions and comments on the site. Please send them to [gfoasc@yahoo.com](mailto:gfoasc@yahoo.com). As always, this is your tool and we want to know how to make it the best it can be!



## News about the National Government Finance Officers Association

Scott Ludlam, CGFO ~ State Representative



### Recent CAFR Awards

In August, Renee Moore, Past-President and I were honored to present the Town of Lexington, SC with a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR Program). The award was presented to Mayor T. Randall Halfacre and the town council. The presentation was made during the town's council meeting.

In November, I had the honor once more to present a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR Program) to the South Carolina Education Lottery Commission. The award was presented to Mr. Dale M. (Dusty) Rhodes, CPA, CGFO, Director of Finance and Mrs. Uvette Pope-Rogers, CPA, Controller. The presentation was made during the Commission's November board meeting.

The CAFR award was established in 1945, and is designed to promote excellence in financial reporting. Please visit the GFOA web site at [www.gfoa.org](http://www.gfoa.org) for more information.

### Training

GFOASC and Midlands Technical College hosted a GFOA National satellite training seminar on November 9, 2006. Stephen Guthier was the speaker, and the topic was "GAAP Updates". CPE's are given, and the training is very good. For more information: [www.gfoa.org](http://www.gfoa.org)

GFOA National also offered training in Charleston, South Carolina in December: "Budgeting for Budget Analysts" and "Financial and ERP System Acquisition and Implementation". I also would encourage each of you to look into joining the National GFOA. Membership is based on the *type* and *size* of your organization. You will receive a newsletter, notices of upcoming training, and a discount for the annual conference. By the way, the next annual conference will be held in June 2007 in Anaheim, California.

### In Conclusion

It has been a pleasure for me to represent GFOASC as your State Representative at the National level for the 2005-2006 years, and to serve as a board member for the 2003-2004 term. I have learned a great deal by participating with GFOASC, and would encourage each of you to get involved.

Marcia Medway will be our next State Representative and I know she will do a good job representing GFOASC. Welcome Marcia.

## Your GFOASC Board of Directors

Please join us in thanking our board members who will be rotating off this year. They have served the Association well and worked hard during their time on the Board.



Doug Cooper—Served the past two years as Director

Scott Ludlam—Served as State Representative to GFOA National 2005 & 2006

Sherry Martin—Served the past two years as Director

Renee Moore—Served the past five years as Director, President-Elect, President and Immediate Past President

Cassandra Phibbs—Served as Secretary for 2006

Also, please join us in welcoming the following new Board Members for 2007:

Jennifer Broughton—Director

Viola Faust—President Elect

Stacey Hamm—Director

Marcia Medway—State Representative to GFOA National

Michael Thom—Secretary



A complete list of the 2007 GFOASC Board is located on our web site at [www.gfoasc.com](http://www.gfoasc.com) under the "About GFOASC" link.



## GFOASC

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(803)359-4892 Fax  
www.gfoasc.com

## 2007 CPE Schedule

Watch our Web site for the new CPE  
schedule to be posted soon!

If you have ideas for topics and or speakers,  
please email us at [gfoasc@yahoo.com](mailto:gfoasc@yahoo.com)  
and let us know!

## Certification Committee Update

### Cheryl Allen-Lint, CGFO ~ Certification Committee Chair

Congratulations to the new Certified  
Government Finance Officers:

Scott Bartley  
Kendra Brown  
Alecia Nicole Caldwell  
Carla Creech  
Marc Dominick  
Jacqueline Dudley  
Patrick Mack Gile  
Deloris Hill  
Maxine Horne  
Dennis Locke  
Jennifer Lopresti  
Jessica Miller  
Gloria Moore  
Anthony Oglietti

The GFOASC awarded the 2006 certifications at its annual fall conference banquet held at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center on October 17, 2006. Kendra Brown received special recognition for having the highest score on the certification exams. To hold certification as a CGFO in the State of South Carolina is a tremendous accomplishment and only achieved after many long hours of study and experience as a governmental accounting practitioner.

#### Changes to Certification Program

The GFOASC Board recently approved a change in the frequency of the exam schedule for the Certification Program. Beginning in 2007, the certification exam will be offered twice a year in May and November. Candidates must pass all exams within three (3) calendar years (6 exam cycles) of taking the first course. Example: if you take your first course in September 2006, the first exam cycle starts May 2007. Therefore, the latest

you can take the exam will be November 2009.

#### 2006 CPE reports

The 2006 CPE reporting forms were mailed out last month, and are also available on the GFOASC website under the Certification link. If any of your contact information has changed, please make the corrections on your CPE form when you send it in, so that we can update your file. The reports are due by February 28, 2007. Two new changes to CPE requirements recently approved by the Board are:

The Certification Committee will not approve an individual's "extenuating circumstances" request for extension of time to earn CPE or send in a report more than once every five years. An exception may be made in individual cases involving extended military deployment.

Beginning in 2007 (reported in 2008), software training is limited to four (4) hours per year, may not be carried forward, and must be reported as "other"—unless recognized as allowable CPE for Accounting & Auditing by state or national standards (ex: SC Board of Accountancy or AICPA).

The Committee would like to offer the following reminders to all CGFOs:

The updated CGFO program guidelines are on the website under the Certification link. (See pages 11-18 in particular)

Each CGFO (except for those newly certified in 2006) is required to report at least 20 hours of CPE

At least four (4) hours must be reported in the "accounting/budgeting" category. These hours cannot be carried forward from the prior year

No more than four (4) hours of personal development can be reported (and cannot be carried forward)

Up to ten (10) hours can be carried forward from the prior and to the next year (in the "other" category)

Please include your email address on the report form so that we can have your most current email—this is the quickest and easiest way to contact you

You must be a current member of GFOASC to remain certified, even if you have an approved waiver of CPE

Be sure and send backup with your CPE report, so that we don't have to request it if you are selected for audit

If you use the CPA form to report your hours, be sure and note which hours are in the "accounting/budgeting" category

Please email me at [gfoasc@yahoo.com](mailto:gfoasc@yahoo.com) if you have any questions or concerns about the certification program.